

September 1996

Gospel for a Global Generation: A New Era Begins!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As of Sept. 1, the international headquarters of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches will occupy its new home at 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood, California. Throughout the month of August, construction has been underway for the renovation of a new Center for Service and Support

COVER STORY REV. ELDER DON EASTMAN

which will house the Resource Center, UFMCC AIDS Ministry, Office of Global Outreach, Director of Clergy Development, and UFMCC Administrative and Executive Offices. Upon moving into this attractive new facility, the entire UFMCC staff will be networked by computer, the first step toward development of a global intranet linking MCC church leaders everywhere.

Future development of the new complex of facilities, to be accomplished as sufficient funds are raised, includes the Global Technology Center, where local church leaders can learn cutting-edge technology and will create the UFMCC Intranet allowing instant access to information and connection between MCC church leaders around the world. The Intranet will make a vast range of information and resources available on the computer of each local church leader.

Also featured in the Global Technology Center will be a state-of-the-art Video Teleconference Room to enable real-time multimedia meetings of the Board of Elders, General Council and other groups. A Center for UFMCC Archives will include all archival materials in

one computer database instantly accessible to local church leaders and archival researchers.

LEADERSHIP INTO A NEW MILLENNIUM

The importance of an emerging global generation was highlighted at the recent UFMCC Church Leadership Conference in Burbank, California. 216 church leaders from seven countries gathered to focus on the vision and values that would guide a new era of MCC ministry. A major emphasis on information

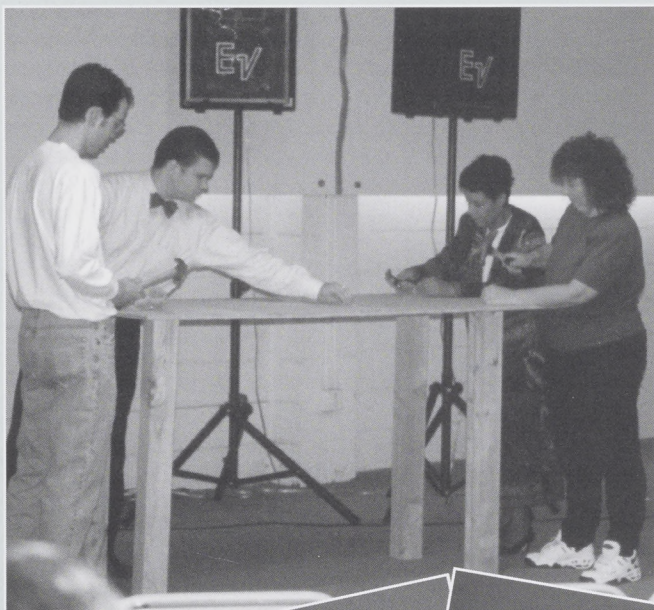
technologies included the first Technology Center at a UFMCC Conference. More than any previous conference, this event was filled with hands-on skills building and resourcing opportunities. Video tapes of many of the events are now available for local church leaders who could not attend.

Gender and generational communication strategies were the focus of several key speakers, including religion sociologist Tex Sample and corporate executive Marsha Raulston. Episcopal priest Eric Law conducted an intensive institute on inclusion and empowerment of multicultural leadership in churches, and another institute on ministry to and with young adults featured a

■ **The first full** house at Metropolitan Community Church Los Angeles gathered for a rite of blessing and thanksgiving.



A FELLOWSHIP OF ACTIVITY



dramatic dialogue between a young adult and an older person discussing what they needed from each other. Once again, retired United Methodist Bishop Leontine Kelly electrified MCC leaders with prophetic urgency, as she challenged us to be agents of the gospel mandate for global justice. She reminded the UFMCC that "we are called to transform, not conform" and to become instruments of justice, not only ministers of charity. "Charity relieves, justice addresses the cause," urged Bishop Kelly.

BLESSING OF THE NEW BEGINNING...

In celebration of this new era of outreach, advocacy and inclusion, participants of the UFMCC

Leadership Conference joined

members of MCC Los Angeles and

others on

Sunday, August 4,

for a Service of Thanksgiving and

Blessing at the new facilities on 8704-

8714 Santa Monica Boulevard. In a very moving ceremony,

the service began as members of MCC

Los Angeles constructed an altar. Rev. Elder

Nancy Wilson cited God's

promise to barren women and eunuchs in the words of Isaiah, "I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off." From the Book of Common Prayer purchased the week before MCC's first worship service in 1968, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry read his favorite psalm, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord." Rev. Perry recounted the saints of MCC who were spiritually with us to celebrate God's blessing of this moment. The moment represented one more milestone in an incredible journey of 28 years, and a wonderful point of departure toward new horizons of global ministry.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REV. DAVID FARRELL

On the Road with the Capital Campaign

Rev. Elder Perry continues in Phase Two of his fellowship-wide "Tour of the Churches". The tour had already visited 68 Churches in 25 States in the U.S. and Canada. The campaign visited MCCs in Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia in July and August, and will return to California during September. A tour of MCCs in Great Britain is in the works for October. Also being scheduled are visits to additional MCCs in Florida, Indiana, Utah, Eastern Canada, and the North-eastern USA. If you would like to have Rev. Perry make his presentation in your church, please contact Rev. David Farrell at (619) 297-0875 about a visit to your MCC.

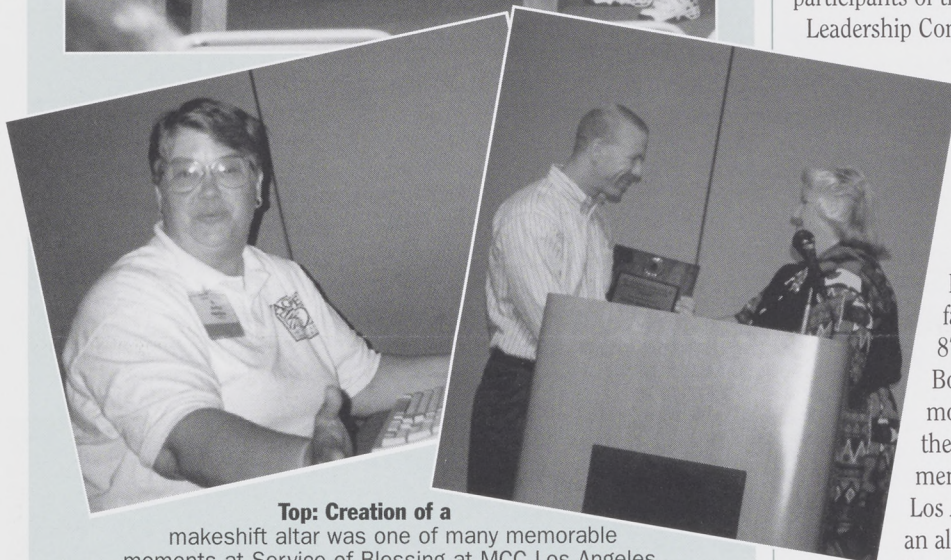
LEADERSHIP SHERMAN HICKS

Impressions of Leadership Conference

It was a privilege and an honor for me to be invited to the Leadership Conference. The UFMCC is to be commended for choosing such a timely theme: "The Gospel For A Global Generation." The selection of this theme shows the UFMCC's seriousness in reaching out around the globe to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all God's children.

The presentations, workshops and worship experiences provided participants exciting visions, numerous skills and inspiration for doing ministry in a changing world. Personally, I was thankful for being invited. I gained from the presenters and I was blessed by being in community with sensitive and caring brothers and sisters in Christ. Nathan Meckley and all those involved in the planning and execution of this conference are to be congratulated for a well planned and smooth operating conference.

If the church is going to reach people in the 21st century, we need to be sensitive to their needs and speak directly to address those needs. The message of the gospel is the same but the way we present



Top: Creation of a

makeshift altar was one of many memorable moments at Service of Blessing at MCC Los Angeles.

Left: Ms. Jonee Shelton was one of several presenters at the first UFMCC Conference Technology Center.

Right: Ms. Judy Dale, Great Lakes District Coordinator, presenting award to representative of Gay Employees Association of Disney Corp.

Bottom: Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Mr. David Mixner during meeting with Board of Elders.





■ **Top:** (lft to rt) Judy Dahl, Ana Vargas, Alejandro Soria, Rev. Pablo Navarro
 ■ **Right:** Susan & Linda Bekker from Republic of South Africa

the message needs to change. Tex Sample presented this in an excellent way. The fact that UFMCC chose Tex Sample to address issues shows how serious MCC is in taking the message to reach global generations. The main challenge is for the church to be relevant for people - they aren't willing to accept things just because the church says it, or because it was the way it has always been done. The challenge is to be true to the message, - John 3 :16 - in Christ we find salvation. It is relevant that this same message once used against black people, now is used to deny gays/lesbians their humanity. -*Rev. Sherman Hicks is the Senior Pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, DC. He held the position of Bishop of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 1988-1995.*

HRC VOTER REGISTRATION

Human Rights Campaign Enlists Help of MCC

The Human Rights Campaign has sent a mailing to all U.S. Metropolitan Community Churches, to invite participation in the Voter Registration Project. The joint partnership of UFMCC and HRC hopes to register thousands of voters during the month of September. Please contact HRC Field Department at 202-628-4160.



GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL

Leaders from Global Outreach Areas Inspire Conference

There is something very compelling about a person who brings light and warmth to a large group of people! Make that six people and the effect is six times more powerful!

Those of us who attended the Leadership Conference in Burbank shared in the blessing with the presence of our Global Outreach Area Leaders. Linda and Susan Bekker traveled from Pretoria, South Africa to attend their very first MCC conference. They brought opportunity to connect with South African MCC'ers in a very tangible way. Both these women have an open and loving spirit which captured the hearts of all those they met. They brought the vision and promise of building MCC in South Africa and were able to experience first hand the blessing and connection of our UFMCC community spirit.

Rev. Jorge Sosa and Guillermo Reyna from Mexico City, Pablo Navarro Hernandez from Puerto Rico and Alejandro Soria from Buenos Aires created an atmosphere

of joy and excitement. Working with them, praying with them, eating with them, and being in their presence offered many of us the chance to catch the fever of hope and renewal present in the Spanish-speaking delegation. A Spanish-speaking track of workshops was developed for this conference to enable us to learn with and from each other as we minister in another language, the same great truth of God's love.

The Mexico City church has been publishing a periodical entitled "Reencuentro" since December of 1995. This journal of local church news and theological discussion is widely acclaimed as an excellent publication by all of our Spanish-speaking people. It is the goal of this group to make this journal an official UFMCC publication with widespread publication to all

Latin American and Spanish-speaking countries. Preliminary work is underway to make this a reality. Plans are underway to distribute "Reencuentro" to Spanish-speaking seminaries and libraries in order to utilize this literary excellence as a tool for general information sharing and evangelism. If you are interested in helping to make this dream a reality, please be in touch with Rev. Jorge Sosa directly at the Mexico City church or contact: Rev. Judy Dahl at global headquarters.

FRONTRUNNERS NANCY WILSON

The Frontrunners of UFMCC

Every year the Board of Elders designates a special "cause" for Fellowship Sunday offerings taken in the month of October for UFMCC's Anniversary. This year, Rev. Troy Perry has requested that our local churches take a love offering for the General Fund of UFMCC, earmarked for expenses related to moving into our new headquarters.

Our operating budget for 1996/97 never anticipated the amazing success we have had in raising over \$1 million to purchase our new

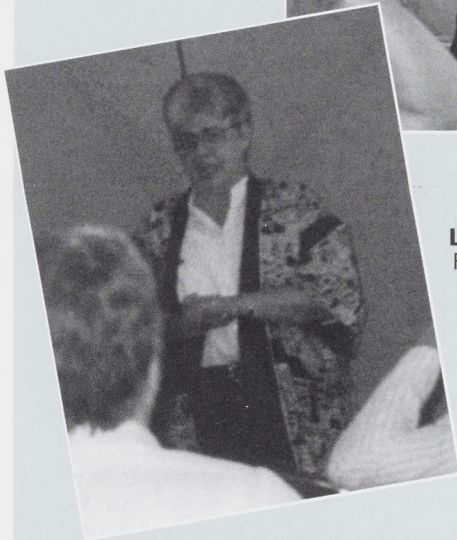
A FELLOWSHIP OF ACTIVITY

- Congratulations to **Rev. Neil Thomas** on an interview with BBC Radio Solent about his work with **MCC Bournemouth, England.**
- Praise God, **St. Mary's MCC of Greensboro**, North Carolina had an attendance jump in June of 44% over last year.
- **Rev. Kenneth G. Hull, Sr.** was elected President of the Brown County Clergy Association. This interdenominational association includes clergy from most of the churches and all the denominations in Green Bay. Rev. Ken is pastor of Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- **Rev. Tony Freeman** was elected Senior Pastor of **MCC San Diego**, California on July 7, 1996, with the congregation giving a resounding 96% vote.
- **Rev. Dusty Pruitt** celebrated her 20th Anniversary of ministry with UFMCC in August.
- Congratulations to **MCC of the Spirit** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as they just purchased and moved into their new building on Jefferson Street in Harrisburg.
- Congratulations to **Divine Redeemer MCC**, Glendale and **MCC For All the Saints**, Silverlake, California as both congregations elected **Rev. Dana Cagle** as their Senior Pastor and as they move closer to an actual merger.
- **Rev. Joseph Gilbert** has been the pastor of MCC For All the Saints for the past few years, and is retiring as an MCC pastor this fall. The church said a final farewell to Rev. Gilbert during worship on August 25.
- Congratulations to **First MCC of Atlanta**, Georgia for winning first place for non-profit groups again this year with their float for pride week.
- Congratulations to **First MCC of Atlanta**, Georgia who will celebrate the Silver Anniversary of their founding on January 16, 1997. **Rev. Troy Perry** will be their special guest speaker.
- The Unitarian Universalist Association voted 97% to endorse same-sex marriage at their recent General Assembly.
- Praises for a very successful Leadership Conference!
- Praises for a new MCC in Puerto Rico!



Left: Dr. Tex Sample, Key Note Plenary Speaker, titled "The Future is Here and I Can't See It from There".

Below: Ms. Marsha Raulston discussed "A Woman's Place" at plenary session.



Left: Ms. Wendy Foxworth lead a workshop on "Developing Consciousness in Your Church".

Below: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson leading workshop on "Issues for Multicultural Congregations".



headquarters! And, of course, it did not anticipate unbudgeted moving costs, the needs for new equipment, and having to do this without interrupting services to local MCC's.

We need to insure that as we move, we do not face any anxieties about cash flow at headquarters. In our joy and enthusiasm for purchasing these gorgeous new buildings, we can never forget that their purpose is to house a staff that can provide high quality resources, materials and support services for our churches and ministries around the globe.

In order to get a head start on Fellowship Sunday this year, we asked some individuals, UFMCC organizations and churches to be "Frontrunners" - to give or pledge in advance of Fellowship Sunday. Thanks to those who have already taken offerings, or are in process of doing so:

- Rev. Bev Stephenson, MCC Lafayette, LA
- Keith Apple and the Excel Network
- JoNee Shelton and COL Steering Committee
- Rev. Gina Chapman, Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA
- Rev. Nancy Wilson, MCC Los Angeles, CA
- Rev. Darlene Garner, MCC NOVA, Falls Church, VA
- Rev. Frankye White, MCC Jacksonville, FL

- Rev. Ron Anderson, Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA
- Rev. Brad Wishon, MCC St. Louis, MO
- Rev. Steve Torrence, MCC Key West, FL
- Rev. Candace Shultis, MCC Washington, DC
- Rev. Pat Bumgardner, MCC New York, NY

How can you help? Please participate this year, if you never have before, in the celebration of UFMCC's 28th Anniversary. We are sending a letter to all our churches requesting a pledge. Pray for us as we "pack our bags" and move to 8704/8714 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.



Below: The Hot Cross Nuns at Saturday Evening Cabaret Night.



Above: Mr. Ramon Florez leading one of a series of Spanish language workshops.



■ **Board of Ordained Ministry Steering Committee.**

LEADERSHIP REV. MAGGIE TANIS

Board of Ordained Ministry Meets

For two days prior to Leadership Conference, the chairs of the district Boards of Ordained Ministry (BOM) gathered for training and meetings with Director of Clergy Development, Rev. Maggie Tanis, and with the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee Transition Team. All twelve districts were represented, allowing the group to hear a multi-national perspective on the credentialing process. The content of the meetings highlighted the BOM's commitment to providing the UFMCC with well-prepared clergy, ready and able to serve our churches. The meetings also gave BOMs the opportunity to share ideas and resources across District lines.

During the business meeting, the BOM Steering Committee



established a universal License to Practice, a process to transfer licenses when relocating to a new district, procedures for conducting future business, and created a Judicial Subcommittee. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in July 1997, just prior to General Conference, in Sydney, Australia.

GLOBAL OUTREACH PUERTO RICO

Bienvenidos ICM in Puerto Rico!

During the August Board of Elders meeting, Pablo Navarro Hernandez brought a proposal to the Board of Global Outreach, Board of Elders through the Administrator of Global Outreach. This proposal was an application to affiliate with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Global Outreach is proud to announce a new work: Iglesia Comunitaria Metropolitana Cristo Sanador! Rev. Judy Dahl has been in ongoing dialogue with the Interim Pastoral Leader, Pablo Navarro Hernandez since the early part of this year.

Pablo is a Professor of Organizational Psychology at the University of San Juan and comes from a legacy of five generations of pastors and theologians. He is eager for the opportunity to serve and build a community of faith in Puerto Rico. Pablo is particularly interested in developing a theology of community and seeks to pastor ICM Cristo Sanador with a strong emphasis on the need for the new members of MCC in Puerto Rico to build, develop and share in a community of Christian love and witness. Several of our churches, who "got wind" of the development of an MCC in Puerto Rico have already expressed interest in becoming "Partners" with this new church. I have responded to you and hope this information will further inform you of our newest Global Outreach church. If you are interested in being more closely linked to ICM Puerto Rico, please be in touch with Rev. Judy Dahl at global headquarters.



DOING JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

"Because They Give Me Pleasure..."

I've just returned from the Republican convention in San Diego. The false and inflammatory rhetoric still echoes in my brain. "How can you be certain that God loves homosexuals?" the extremists asked. I tried to reason with them from the Bible, from science and from history. There is a sufficiency of evidence, but they aren't really interested in hearing it.

Then I went back to my hotel room to lay down beside Gary and asked myself their question: "Why, after 30 years of uncertainty, am I so totally convinced that God created us and loves us exactly as we are?" For a moment, I lay in that dark and silent room, cuddled up against the man I love, trying to recall those memories of my own creation, more than a half-a-century-old, memories that ended my doubts forever.

For nine months I had floated, safely suspended inside my mother's sensuous, silken sack. Then, without warning, the water that had cradled me so gently just drained away and I began the final terrifying plunge from that other world into this. At the end of the long, slippery tunnel there were new voices that I had never heard before. My mother groaning in pain. A nurse whispering "Push harder, Mrs. White." The doctor saying quietly, "Here he comes."

But even with all those distracting new sounds rushing up at me, I could still hear the friendly, familiar voice of the Archangel Gabriel growing ever more distant as I slid precariously toward the light. When he knew my time had come, Gabriel rushed down the golden streets of heaven shouting at the top of his voice.

"Sing, angel choirs! Play, angel bands! Quick, angel color guards, raise another lavender flag over the papapets of heaven. Come quickly, saints and martyrs. Gather around to cheer, and weep, and wonder why every so often God orders another gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender child to be born."

"You ask why another gay child is born today?" God finally asked and billions of saints and angels nodded their heads and looked perplexed. "Because they give me pleasure," God explained quietly. And then, after another long moment of silent contemplation, the Creator smiled and spoke again. "Besides, gay and lesbian babies stir up things and God knows the world needs an occasional stir."

Now, when the extremists ask, "How can you be sure that God loves homosexuals?" I lift my face to heaven one more time and listen to the laughter of my loving God.

Ed. Note: Mel and Gary have sold their home/retreat center in Dallas and are moving to a small apartment in Laguna Beach, California. They will continue their UFMCC Justice Ministry working out of our new offices in West Hollywood.

Upcoming District Conferences:

Great Lakes District Conference, October 4-6, 1996, Clarksville, Indiana
Theme: Justice...Not "Just Us" with special guest Rev. Mel White
Southwest District Conference, November 22-24, 1996, Tempe, Arizona
Theme: "Evangelism in the Millennium"

General Conference Travel Package Announced

The details of the Fellowship's official travel and lodging package for General Conference in Sydney, Australia, July 20-25, 1997, have been announced. The basic package will include:

- Roundtrip air from LA or San Francisco
- 7 nights accommodations
- Roundtrip airport shuttle transfers
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Delegate satchel

All rates are per person and quoted in U.S. dollars. Departure taxes additional. Discounted add-ons are available from cities through the United States. Additional air stops in the South Pacific are \$135 each.

Package Prices:

OXFORD KOALA HOTEL

Double - \$1195 Single - \$1482 Triple - \$1157

Land Only:

Double - \$477 Single - \$694 Triple - \$368

CAMBRIDGE HOTEL

Double - \$1337 Single - \$1712 Triple - \$1262

Land Only:

Double - \$499 Single - \$874 Triple - \$424

SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL

Double - \$1370 Single - \$1778 Triple - \$1324

Land Only:

Double - \$533 Single - \$940 Triple - \$487

HOTEL IBIS

Double - \$1450 Single - \$1940 (no triples available)

Land Only:

Double - \$613 Single - \$1103 (no triples available)

NOVOTEL

Double - \$1618 Single - \$2270 Triple - \$1477

Land Only:

Double - \$780 Single - \$1433 Triple - \$639

For booking, or more information, contact Above and Beyond Tours at 800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666.

PRAYERS

Prayers for the family and friends of **John Raymer Jr.**, spouse of **Rev. Dwayne Johnson**, MCC Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on June 6th due to complications of Aids.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Diana Hill** of MCC Shepherd of the Plains who died of a heart attack on July 19.

Prayers go out to **Rev. Patricia Leffler**, pastor of **Christ Chapel MCC**, Santa Ana, California, for healing and strength as she goes through radiation treatments to become cancer free.

Prayers for **Rev. Bradley Mickelson** as he mourns the death of his father.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Rev. Tomas Garcia** from **ICM Guadalajara, Mexico** whose mother died earlier this year.



■ Aids Ministry Meeting:

(lft to rt) Top - Rev. Lori Dick, Rev. Jo Crisco, Mr. Ravi Verma, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Rev. Ken South, Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Mr. Gil Gerald; Bottom - Rev. Steve Pieters, Mr. Eric Rofes, Ms. Sallie Perryman.

GLOBAL OUTREACH AUSTRALIA

Sydney's Manna Pantry

The **Manna Pantry** is a project of the Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney which supplies emergency food to people living with HIV/AIDS in Sydney and on the Central Coast. The project started small back in 1993 when MCC's pastoral support team became aware that PLWHA were living in poverty. They also found that PLWHA seeking assistance from nonHIV charities were being discriminated against — and were therefore missing out on the support those agencies could have provided. As a result, MCC started giving out food parcels at their free Sunday lunches, at first in conjunction with BGF and later independently.

"Manna Pantry don't just do food," says Colin Wiseman, the coordinator of the Manna Pantry who can also refer you on to other helpful organizations and places such as the Luncheon Club or Day Centre, and of course to the MCC if you desire food for the soul as well as the body.

—Article from "Talkabout" magazine, Sydney Australia July 1996

AIDS MINISTRY MEETING SUCCESS

Planning Meeting for AIDS Ministry

A **Strategic Planning** Meeting for UFMCC AIDS Ministry, held July 26-27 in Burbank, CA, was a highly productive session, resulting in numerous proposals for future directions and activities. Look for information regarding this meeting in upcoming issues of *Keeping in Touch*.

HANDS ON MARSHA RAULSTON

Tools to Create "A Woman's Place"

"Typically there are differences in male and female styles of communicating which give women in positions of authority special challenges. Our culture is gender marked, therefore authority-driven communication may result in women being at odds with expected behaviors which can be misinterpreted," according to Marsha Raulston presenting "A Woman's Place" at the Friday morning plenary at the UFMCC Leadership Conference in Burbank, CA.

Ms. Raulston also led a workshop during the conference, "Be All That You Can Be...or How to Succeed in Only 26 Hours A Day." The following are reference materials that were used in the workshop:

Talking from 9 to 5, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.; published by William, Morrow, & Co., Inc.

You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.;

published by William, Morrow, Balentine

That's Not What I Meant!: How Conversational Style Makes or Breaks Relationships, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.; published by William, Morrow, Balentine

Women as Managers...Strategies for Success, Editor: Linda Bullock; published by Economics Press, Inc., Fairfield, NJ 07004-2565; copyright 1996; 800-526-2554 or 201-227-1224

Executive Strategies, Editor: Barbara Baker Clark; published by: National Institute of Business Management, 1101 King Street, Suite 411, Alexandria, VA 22314; 800-543-2053; e-mail: execstrat@aol.com

Communication Briefings...a monthly idea source for decision makers, 1101 Kings Street Suite 110, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-548-3800; Fax: 703-684-2136

Raulston heads world wide customer support and service as Vice President of Customer Satisfaction for Global Village Communications, a high-tech manufacturer of telecommunications hardware and software. She was Director of Customer Service for the AAdvantage program and was Corporate Coordinator of Quality of Work Life for American Airlines. She was formerly an officer with INTUIT and the Diners Club division of Citicorp. Raulston is also currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies.

VOLUNTEERS QUILT DISPLAY

Volunteers Needed for MCC Booth at Quilt Display

Volunteers are needed for UFMCC AIDS Ministry's exhibit booth at the Names Project's Quilt Display in Washington, DC, October 11, 12, and 13, 1996. If you are planning to be present for the Quilt Display and would like to help out, please contact Rev. Steve Pieters at UFMCC Global Headquarters, at 310-360-8640 before September 24.

HONORS REV. WILHELMINA HEIN

Hein Receives Outstanding Teacher Award

Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein received the first annual Dr. Tom Reveley Outstanding Teacher Award at Samaritan Institute's faculty breakfast on Saturday, August 3, at the Burbank Hilton. The award was established by the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies in memory of Dr. Tom Reveley. Dr. Reveley served on Samaritan Institute's Board for a number of years and his commitment to education for liberation continues with bequest money he left to Samaritan. The award is made annually by the Academic Dean and consists of \$750, a certificate, and a plaque with the names of yearly recipients to be kept in Samaritan's administrative offices.

Rev. Elder Hein has been faculty for Samaritan Institute for several years and has taught in a variety of Samaritan's programs. She is consistently viewed by her students as a faculty person with expertise and gifts for teaching.



■ Samaritan Institute Faculty Breakfast:

Rev. Mona West, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Rev. Sandy Robinson.

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Translation Services: Correction, spelling and typing of materials from English into Spanish or vice versa. Reasonable prices. Call Ana's Translation Services (805) 488-3147 and leave a message.

Ministry and Nightlife: Part-time Pastor to assist MCC of the Sierras in ministering to "The Biggest Little City in the World". Confidential inquiries: P.O. Box 21192, Reno, NV 89515-1192.

Attention Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemember Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

Amateur Radio Land Line BBS Gateway to MCC of Greenville, SC W4VIW's BBS @ 864-299-6185 Voice 864-277-9957 FidoNet CrossNet X-FilesNet SySop and UFOlogist LeRoy Lawhorn.

Victory Arrow MCC, Springfield, Missouri, is seeking that Senior Pastor who is right now being prepared by God to lead us into VICTORY! Send inquiries to: Ms. Barbara Wulfers, 2804 Spring Hill Road, Rogersville, MO 65742.

We feel great eating Earth's First Food - Organic Business, healthy income. For free audio cassette call Judith at 800/927-2527 ext. 2532 or Ron at 800/922-6662.

MCC With A Vision in the heart of East Texas is seeking applicants for part-time Pastor with great potential for full-time. Please submit applications to: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1287, Longview, TX 75606. For more information call 903-753-1501, or e-mail MCCWAV TX@AOL.com.

Are you called to serve in the beautiful Ozark mountains? We are a spiritually diverse congregation seeking an outgoing community-minded pastor. For more information please write MCC of the Living Spring, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 365, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. E-mail: croftwm@AOL.com.

Leadership Conference Video Tapes Available! Contact Valda Lewis (316) 264-4889.

KEEPING IN TOUCH SEPTEMBER 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC Email: ufmcchq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator; Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:

Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez, Dana Cagle



**Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches**

8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Telephone: 310-360-8640, Fax: 310-360-8680

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Angeles
California
Permit 31382

FIRST CLASS PRESORT

CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

July 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX 7,686.62
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX 3,338.47
3. MCC Washington, Washington, DC 2,433.93
4. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL 2,063.73
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL 1,551.05
6. MCC New York, New York, NY 1,328.62
7. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 1,316.71
8. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 1,206.01
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 1,182.35
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 1,174.30
11. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO 1,082.71
12. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL 1,025.80
13. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA 996.63
14. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL 899.00
15. MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY 864.40
16. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 860.68
17. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO 838.38
18. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 811.93
19. Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD 804.00
20. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX 802.75

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

July 1996

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA 41.05
2. MCC of the Disciples, Washington, DC 40.27
3. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 38.50
4. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 37.16
5. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL 33.74
6. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS 33.37
7. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO 30.53
8. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA 29.95
9. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA 29.40
10. MCC of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 28.82
11. MCC Boulder, Boulder, CO 28.16
12. Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX 27.73
13. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL 27.22
14. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA 26.76
15. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN 26.67
16. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO 24.62
17. MCC in Charlottesville, VA 24.61
18. MCC New York, New York, NY 22.33
19. MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY 22.11
20. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL 21.11

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)